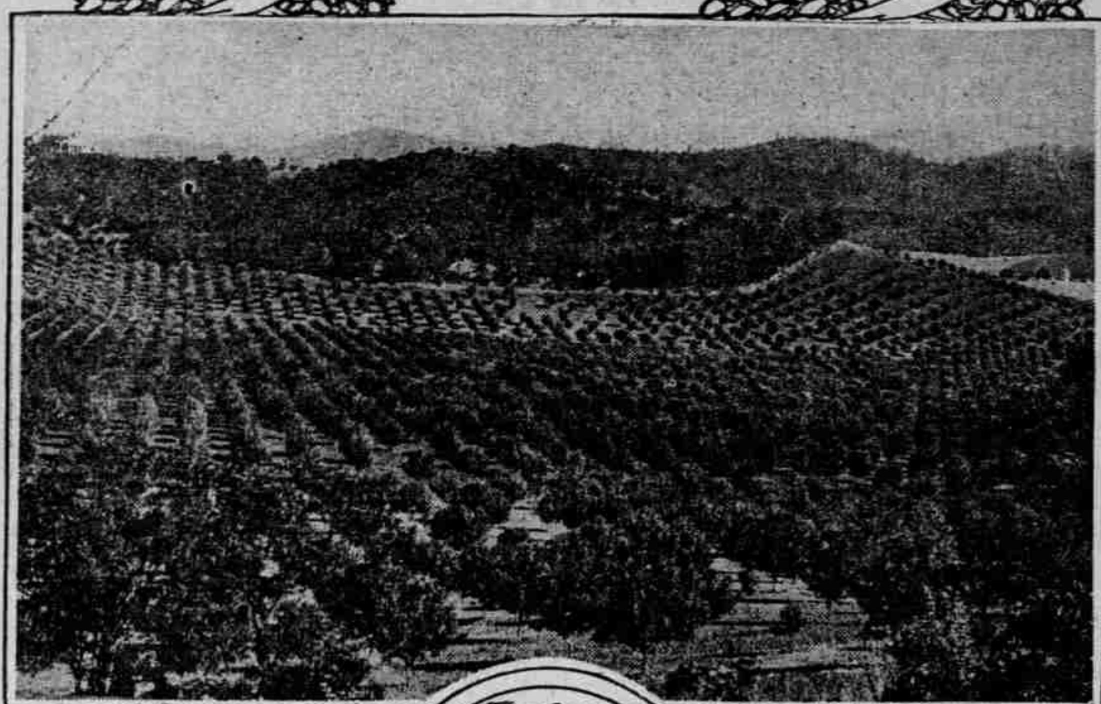
RECORD YIELDS ARE RULE IN OREGON ORCHARDS WITH ACREAGE INCREASING

Fame of Fruit Raised in This State Is Spreading—Attention Is Now Centered on Problem of Most Successful Marketing.



The Geo. B. Carpenter Ranch of Prize Pears Has Paid 10% Net Annually On $2000 An Acre For Past Four Years

Oregon Prune Orchard. Prunes From This State Find Ready Market

By A. F. Bateham President Oregon State Horticultural Society.

NINETEEN-TWELVE has been a banner crop year for the horticulturists of Oregon. Climatic conditions were in the main favorable, and record yields were the rule.

The acreage in Oregon devoted to fruitgrowing shows a substantial and desirable increase. By that is meant that much more of wisdom has been shown in the selection of locations and varieties with a corresponding increase of prospects for commercial profits. Indiscriminate planting by promoters in unsuitable locations has almost ceased.

The rising star in the Oregon horticultural firmament is the loganberry, which was first introduced but a few years ago. The acreage has increased tremendously until it has now reached about 5000 acres with a probability of nearly doubling in 1913. The loganberry is marketed almost entirely as a canned or evaporated product, and the volume of the trade, as well as its profits, bids fair to rival that of the apple and is exciting great interest among horticulturists.

A few years ago, Hood River and Milton were practically the only districts in the state that produced more strawberries than enough for local use, but gradually other places have entered the game until now it is a common crop throughout Southern and Western Oregon with the result that but little of the Hood River or Eastern Oregon crop finds its way westward, almost all of it being shipped under refrigeration to states of the Middle West.

Production of cherries increases yearly, especially of the Lambert and Bing varieties, which have become great favorites in Eastern markets. The cannery demand for Royal Anne cherries affords good profits to growers of that variety, although a great many are shipped in a fresh state to the East, where such varieties cannot be grown.

Year by year Oregon becomes more famous for its pears. Rogue River Valley growers continue to hold the world's record for high-priced sales. This is substantial proof of the unequaled quality of the product which ranks the foreign markets as well as those of this country. Without attempting to give statistics, it can safely be predicted that the shipments from the state may be doubled and trebled within a year or two. Very effective work has been done in the pear districts in eradicating fire blight before it created serious havoc, and growers now feel more confident of their competency to handle all conditions that may arise.

The Oregon apple crop for 1912 was approximately 3000 carloads, counting only that part of the crop shipped out of the state. It is entirely reasonable to expect that this output may be doubled by 1914.

The quality of the crop was as a rule first class, and it was assembled for shipment with comparatively little of difficulty. This last happy condition was largely brought about by the increased efficiency of the local fruit associations which are demonstrating what a great aid they are to the growers by intelligently systematizing crop estimates, contracting for needed boxes and other supplies and in organizing working forces to pick, grade and pack the fruit and load it on cars properly.

More and more the opinion is gaining ground that the business of the grower is to grow the fruit and that he ought to co-operate with those who make it their business to market fruit rather than attempt to be his own salesman.

The question of marketing methods for fruits is now recognized as such a large economic factor that the heads of the largest financial and business interests of the Pacific Northwest are giving their earnest attention to the subject as one in which all are vitally interested, as well as the fruitgrower.

Oregon fruitgrowers have reason to be optimistic, for their fruit industry is based upon the most favorable conditions of soil and climate, which together with intelligent scientific and discriminating methods of growing, produce grades of fruit unequalled outside of the Pacific Northwest.

Interstate co-operation of growers has succeeded in establishing a degree of uniformity in grades and pack that has greatly assisted in marketing fruits, although there is need of further improvement along these lines.

The two features that are lacking for the perfect success of the fruit industry are proper distribution and marketing of the best grades of fruit and conversion into by-products of the inferior grades. Both of these matters are being discussed continually now in every fruit district of the state, and rapid improvement appears to be inevitable.

HOP CROP, 120,000 BALES, LARGEST FOR FIVE YEARS

Farmers Net $1,500,000 on Yield Worth $3,650,000, Although Prices Are Below Average.

By John M. Lowndale.

THE largest hop crop grown in Oregon since 1907 was that raised in the past year. Climatic conditions throughout the early Summer months could not have been better for the growth of the vine. At picking time and just before, unfortunately, the good weather did not continue, and this, of course, affected the quality of the product. The size of the yield, however, was not diminished.

There has been a gradual increase in the hop acreage of the state in the past few years, and it is probable that before long Oregon will again be the heavy producer the state was five or six years ago. The large yield per acre, which brought the 1912 crop up to 120,000 bales, can only be repeated when weather conditions are ideal.

The hop crop of Oregon in recent years has been as follows:

Year.	Bales.
1902	86,000
1903	88,000
1904	80,000
1905	117,000
1906	100,000
1907	136,000
1908	92,000
1909	83,000
1910	95,000
1911	75,000
1912	120,000

Oregon maintains its position as the leading hop-growing state of the Union, having exceeded California in output in the past year by about 10,000 bales. This state grows about three times as many bales of hops as either Washington or New York, the only other producing states.

The weather is always the uncertain factor in the growing of hops. The plant is extremely sensitive to insect attacks, and these are most persistent and injurious when the Summer season is a damp one. The trouble can be remedied, in a large degree, by spraying, a simple operation that is not attended with great expense, unless frequent spraying is found necessary, and this is seldom the case in Oregon.

The market for hops is more subject to fluctuations than that of any other product grown in the country, as is shown by the range of prices that have prevailed so far this season, and the season is not half over.

Starting at 26 to 27 cents, the price at which contracts were made while the crop was still growing, the market declined to 21 to 22 cents by the end of harvest, when the first baled hops were offered for sale. The demand was so slow at the beginning that it was difficult to tell just when the market opened. A large part of the crop had been purchased on contract, and for that reason there was little buying by the dealers for Eastern account during the first month or six weeks of the season.

The export demand was also light, as England, the only foreign purchaser of American hops, found it more advantageous to import from Germany and other Continental countries.

This unusual inactivity in what the growers had expected would be one of the main buying months had its effect on prices, which sagged to 18 to 20 cents for the best grades.

The poorer kinds, of which there was a plentiful supply, were neglected all this time. About 15 cents was considered a fair average price for these, but sales of anything below a prime hop were few and far between.

During the first week in November the owners of the lower grades, determined to find a market, began pressing them for sale. A few lots were taken at 12 cents, then others at 11 cents and finally there was fairly heavy selling at the 10-cent mark. Some well-known lots that had little to recommend them other than their size were disposed of on the market at 8 and 9 cents.

This slump in the cheaper sorts naturally had its effect on the better growths, and during the selling flurry 16 cents was quoted as the full price on the best hops. The demand, however, was only for the low-priced kinds, and until they were nearly exhausted buyers paid little attention to hops of prime or choice quality.

It took less than a month to clean up nearly all available hops in the state. By December 1 not over 10,000 bales of all grades were left unsold, and by the close of the year growers' stocks had been reduced to half this quantity.

During the first week in December the market, which had undoubtedly gone too low, righted itself. The recovery was sudden, prices gaining fully 3 cents in half a week. Since then there has been a gradual elevation in values. The market is not yet up to the point at which it opened, but it does not have to go far to reach that level.

When the buying once began in earnest it was largely for European shipment. Enterprising dealers on the Coast, foreseeing the heavy selling movement by farmers that would result from the big crop, sold the market short in an extensive manner, and were enabled to cover their sales at prices even lower than they had hoped for. Then, when the bottom dropped out of the market temporarily, Eastern and local speculators invested heavily. A very large part of the buying during the latter part of November and the first of December was for speculative account. The purchases by Eastern brewers so far are represented principally by contract hops. When they undertake to buy later in the season for Summer brewing they will have to go to the speculators for their supplies.

The hop crop of 1912 has netted the Oregon growers about $3,650,000. All of this is Eastern or foreign money. In 1911, although a year of record prices, the market climbing to 45 cents, the crop produced but little more than that of 1912, which shows that a big crop at reasonable prices is as good for all concerned as a small crop at high prices.

The cost of growing hops is gradually increasing, as is the case in other agricultural lines, but in spite of the added expenses of higher priced labor and supplies, the hopgrowers of Oregon on the crop they have just sold realized a clear profit of about $1,500,000.

Railway From Vale Will Cross Oregon

Harriman Interests Probably Will Extend New Line to Connect With Central Oregon Branch.

WHAT undoubtedly will be the Harriman system's second "east and west" line across Oregon now is being built through the eastern portion of the state, connecting with the Oregon Short Line's branch road at Vale and having for its proposed western terminus a point near Dog Mountain, 140 miles away.

Contracts for this piece of work have been let to the Utah Construction Company of Salt Lake City and considerable progress has been made in the last few months in building it. With the movement of the grain and fruit crops last Fall temporary suspension of activities became necessary, however, so that the equipment could be used in the regular service. After the crops were moved work was resumed. Activity will continue throughout the year. It is probable that the work will not be completed within the present year, as the western portion of it involves some heavy construction. About 30 miles of grading has been finished and track laying is proceeding as fast as the grade is made ready. The work is being done under direction of the Oregon Short Line officials, Carl Stradley, of Salt Lake City, being chief engineer. It will cost approximately $[illegible].

While nothing beyond Dog Mountain has been authorized, it is improbable that this point will remain the western terminus. To extend the road over into Central Oregon to a possible connection with the Deschutes Valley line of the O.-W. R. & N. Company seems to be the most feasible plan of the Harriman interests.

The most likely step will be to build this "east and west" road to Crescent, a convenient point on the Southern Pacific's new line between Eugene and Klamath Falls. While the recent Supreme court decision "unmerging" the Union Pacific and the Southern Pacific may affect the relations of this new line to the Southern Pacific it is not likely that the route of the railroad will be changed. A western connection will be required and Crescent or some other convenient point on the Southern Pacific will be selected.

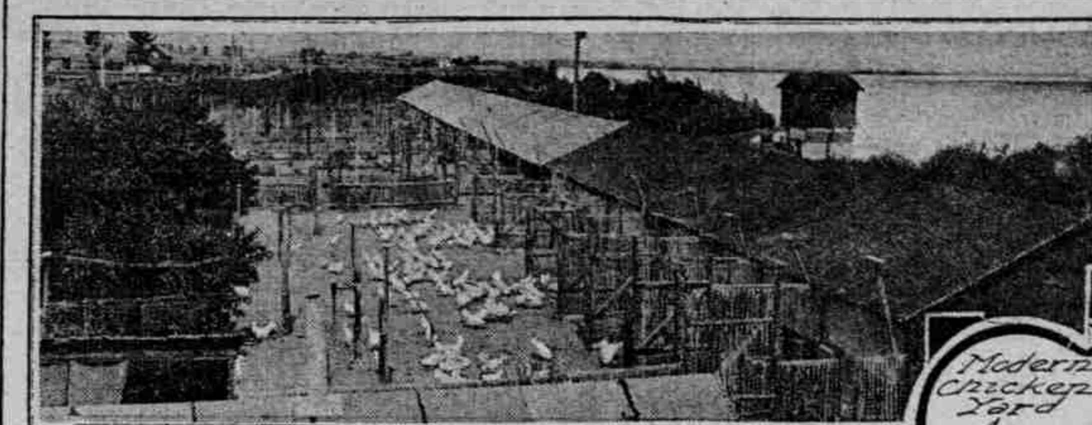
Crescent is about 60 miles south of Bend, the present terminus of the O.-W. R. & N. Company's Deschutes Valley road, and in the event that the Vale-Dog Mountain line is extended to that point the Deschutes line, in all probability, also will be pushed to the same place.

Meanwhile considerable progress is being made on the Natron-Klamath cutoff of the Southern Pacific. While Natron generally is spoken of as the northern diverging point of this line, service really will be operated out of Eugene. The most difficult portion of the line, including the principal tunnel, remains to be built. Progress necessarily is slow through the mountains. Officials of the Southern Pacific Company want to have the project completed within two years, in anticipation of the Panama-Pacific Exposition and its consequent traffic stimulation. This route then will be the main Southern Pacific highway between Portland and San Francisco and a passenger schedule of 22 hours between the two points will be possible.

Construction on the "east and west" line, as well as that on the Natron-Klamath cutoff, is being done by the Oregon Eastern Railroad, a subsidiary of the Union Pacific, but the Supreme Court decision probably will necessitate a new corporation being formed to carry on the development for the Southern Pacific.

PRODUCTION OF EGGS IN OREGON NOW SHUTS OFF IMPORTS FROM OTHER STATES

Farmers at Last Realize Importance of Poultry Industry, Which Brings Them $7,250,000 in 1912. Puget Sound Cities Buy Here.



Modern Chicken Yard A Money Maker

Pure Bred White Leghorns

Chicken Ranch in Eastern Oregon

An Oregon Duck Farm

THE poultry industry of Oregon has now reached the point where it is no longer necessary to draw on the Middle Western States for egg supplies. This means more than appears on the surface. For many years carloads of Eastern eggs have been brought to this city in the Fall and Winter months because the home supply was not large enough for home consumption. From now on, the money, heretofore sent out of the state, will be spent at home in furthering the development of this important industry.

It is only a matter of a short time before Oregon will become a surplus egg state, as California has already become, and will be supplying the neighboring states. The growth of the poultry business has been faster, perhaps, than any other agricultural pursuit in the state.

For the past two years, the quantity of Eastern eggs brought here has steadily declined. Two years ago over 80 cars were brought in during the Fall and early Winter months. In the past year, less than a third of this quantity was received. In 1913, it is probable not a single car will be brought from the East. In the year just ended, enough eggs were laid in Oregon to supply all home demands. A number of cars were shipped out of the state which will just about offset the number brought in.

—The egg shipping months in Oregon are from January to June, and the markets for the surplus product are in the North. The Puget Sound cities are all liberal buyers of Oregon eggs and large quantities are also sent to British Columbia. Many Oregon eggs find their way to Alaska in the Spring months, but this business is largely in the hands of Seattle dealers. Shipments during a part of the season go into the Spokane territory.

Much live poultry is also dispatched from Portland to the Sound markets, but these shipments are irregular and are dependent solely on prevailing market conditions.

OREGON PRODUCTS VALUED AT $249,990,165.

Lumber and other sawmill products	$30,000,000
Livestock	33,150,000
Grain	20,050,000
Dairy products	16,750,000
Hay and clover seed	13,417,809
Fruit	7,107,000
Potatoes and other vegetables	8,750,674
Hops	3,650,000
Miscellaneous agricultural products	9,500,000
Poultry and eggs	7,250,000
Honey	135,000
Mineral products	3,229,682
Fish	4,000,000
Manufactured articles	93,000,000
Total	$249,990,165

The value of the poultry and egg output of Oregon last year has been roughly estimated at $7,250,000. Close figures in this respect are difficult to obtain, as the development of the business has been widely scattered and in the majority of instances the individual plants are of small size. The growth of the business has been easier to follow, as it could be accurately gauged by the quantities marketed in this city. On this basis it is safe to say the production of eggs in Oregon has increased two-thirds in the past 12 months, and that means practically that the poultry crop has been two-thirds greater than in the previous year.

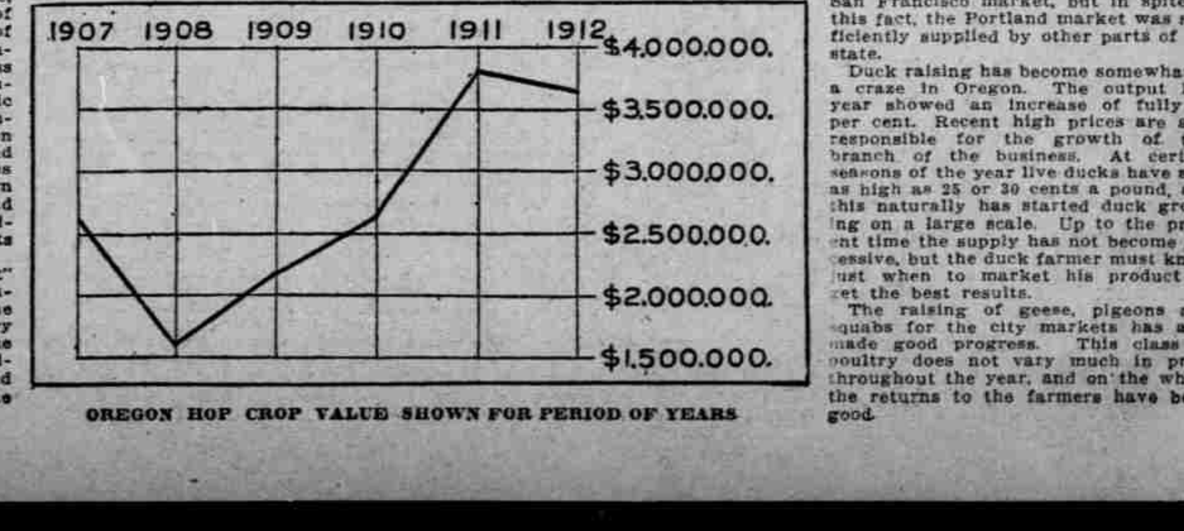
This great increase in the poultry output has been brought about, first of all, by the good prices that have ruled in this market during the past few years. High prices stimulate the production of poultry, as of everything else. The "back to the soil" agitation has also had more or less to do with the growth of the business. Another important factor that must not be lost sight of has been the attention that farmers and commercial poultry raisers have given to improved breeding. An inspection of the live poultry supplies reaching Front street any day will show to what extent this has been carried forward.

Not only is the poultry industry growing rapidly in the Willamette Valley, but east of the Cascades poultry farming has taken rapid strides. Those sections which formerly raised only enough chickens and eggs for home use now have a surplus for the Portland market.

More turkeys were also raised in Oregon in the past year than ever before. Douglas County, the leading turkey-growing section of the state, shipped most of its Thanksgiving supply to the San Francisco market, but in spite of this fact, the Portland market was sufficiently supplied by other parts of the state.

Duck raising has become somewhat of a craze in Oregon. The output last year showed an increase of fully 75 per cent. Recent high prices are also responsible for the growth of this branch of the business. At certain seasons of the year live ducks have sold as high as 25 or 30 cents a pound, and this naturally has started duck growing on a large scale. Up to the present time the supply has not become excessive, but the duck farmer must know just when to market his product to get the best results.

The raising of geese, pigeons and squabs for the city markets has also made good progress. This class of poultry does not vary much in price throughout the year, and on the whole the returns to the farmers have been good.



OREGON HOP CROP VALUE SHOWN FOR PERIOD OF YEARS